GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:420
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
BAN ON OPINION POLLS/EXIT POLLS
P. RAJENDRAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the Opinion Polls conducted bythe various Print and Electronic Media in the country before the elections as well as the exercise of `Exit Polls`;

(b) if so, whether they influence the voting decision of voters and affect the concept of free and fair election;

(c) if so, whether the Government have obtained the views of the Election Commission in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Law has informed that the Election Commission of India had laid downguidelines for publication and dissemination of results of opinion polls/exit polls in January, 1998 during General Election to Lok Sabha and certain Legislative Assemblies in 1998-99. However, these guidelines were withdrawn by the Election Commission of India in September, 1999. Opinion of Attorney General has been sought on the Constitutional validity of banning publication of results of exit polls.